

MERGER WEAPON FARES BATTLE

Public May Demand Lines
Be Made One if Ticket
Boost Is Sought.

SERVICE NOT IMPROVED

Financial Relief for Com-
panies Brings No Riding
Relief for Patrons.

Merging the two local street rail-
way companies as the best solution
of Washington's continued traction
troubles will be pushed with renewed
vigor if the agitation for increased
fares started by the Washington
Railway and Electric Company de-
velops into a formal petition.

This was learned yesterday from an
official of the Public Utilities Commis-
sion. In the opinion of this official,
a merger of the two companies will
mean reduced fares and greatly im-
proved service. A merger has long
been advocated by civic bodies of
Washington.

The Public Utilities Commission can-
not force a merger, however, it was
pointed out yesterday by Commis-
sioner Louis Brownlow, chairman of
the Public Utilities Commission.

When asked if this could be accom-
plished in any other way, Commis-
sioner Brownlow explained that Con-
gress might condemn the two com-
panies and sell them to the public.

The probability that the traction in-
terests here will voluntarily agree to
consolidate is remote. In view of past
attitudes assumed at numerous pub-
lic hearings before the commission.

If the Washington Railway and
Electric Company were granted a
straight seven-cent cash fare or even
an eight-cent fare it is doubtful if
the increased revenue would meet
the demand of the company for a
fair return on investment, it was
stated. The public has reached the
conclusion that mere fare increases
will never solve the local traction
problem. Increased rates have been
granted, two-cent transfers have been
made, but the fact remains that of-
ficials are no nearer their goal—public
service—now than in the past.

Government Will Not Buy Cuba's Sugar Crop, President Announces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

"On October 3, the Sugar Equaliza-
tion Board, through its President, ex-
pressed to the Senate Committee its
view that the Cuban crop for 1920
should and could be purchased pro-
vided the powers of control hereto-
fore exercised by the board were con-
tinued in full until December 31, 1920.

"Conditions have now so changed
that the board does not believe that
action by the board to secure a regu-
lar supply of sugar for the year
1920 at a reasonable price.

"One of the elements which helped
materially to make the board's ac-
tion for the 1919 crop effective, no
longer exists. The board was able
to deal with the unified Cuban sell-
ing agency for the 1919 crop, and to
secure and control the entire
crop. Now there is no person or
committee authorized to secure the
balance of the 1920 Cuban crop.

Therefore, if the government should
appear in the Cuban market as a
purchaser of the sugar, it would
have to compete with private buy-
ers, and the tendency would be to
further increase the price.

BIRTHS REPORTED.

George W. and Agnes Brew, boy.
Harry T. and Laura K. Brown, boy.
William B. and Virgie M. Chesser, boy.
Morton and Olive E. Currell, boy.
Horace B. and Ruth F. Drury, boy.
Charles H. and Ethel A. Fletcher, girl.
S. Sidney and Frances Ford, boy.
George E. and Emma M. Foster, girl.
Edward R. and Mary A. Haggliter, girl.
Elmer L. and Grace C. Harding, boy.
Jesse C. and Mary L. Jones, boy.
Edward A. and Carrie King, boy.
Robert L. and Margaret A. Lynch, Jr., boy.
Mark A. and Emily Mattars, boy.
Maurice B. and Angela Minter, girl.
Frank J. and Madeline M. McCormick, boy.
Nels M. and Edith N. Nelson, Jr., girl.
Frank J. and Mary E. Purcell, girl.
Frank E. and Elizabeth J. Reynolds, girl.
Guy E. and Lorice L. Roberts, boy.
Samuel W. and Mabel I. Satterfield, (twin) girls.
Joseph E. and Margaret M. Walsh, boy.
John T. and Margaret A. Galloway, boy.
George and Mary Grosse, girl.
Samuel and Francis Harvey, girl.
Lynn and Rosa Neal, boy.
Jesse and Janie Steptoe, girl.
Charles and Mary Washington, boy.

DEATHS REPORTED.

Edward Purcell Humphrey, 7 years, 125 Fern
ave.
Mary Lorenza McElreath, 85, Garfield Hospital.
Lula A. Soller, 2, 173 L. st., nw.
Allen M. Lyons, 3, Sibley Hospital.
Bessie Louise Lee, 21, 101 E. st., nw.
John Broderick, 63, U. S. Soldier's Home.
Albert Crowell, 36, U. S. Soldier's Home.
Frank Hama, 40, 1700 Columbia Hospital.
Franklin Deane, 31, 1224 K Street, n. w.
Charles W. Jackson, 1 month 27 days, n. w.
Katie Robinson, 67, Washington Asylum Hospi-
tal.
Jessie Cline, 20, Washington Asylum Hospi-
tal.
Catherine Stewart, 60, 422 Navy place n. w.

"READ 'EM AND WEEP!"



While the labels on the bottles and kegs don't show, we'll give you one guess as to what is flowing into oblivion. It happened in Kansas City, Kan., on the day before New Year's when Roy Hubbard, assistant attorney general, destroyed \$30,000, (at prevailing prices) worth of wine, whisky and gin. The liquor was gathered in raids covering a year's time. K. C. used to be the home and "playground" of Carrie Nation.

Fired by Explorers' Tales British Captain Starts Hunt For Prehistoric Monster

London, Jan. 3.—Capt. Lester Ste-
vens, N. C., has gone to Central Af-
rica in search of the Brontosaurus,
alive.

With him goes "Laddie," part sheep
dog, part wolf, who until his capture
by his present master was used by
the German army as a "barraque" run-
ner—carrying messages to the front
lines in France. He will be used in
tracking down the reptile if his mas-
ter is fortunate enough to come upon
any trace of it in the dense jungle
land of the Congo basin.

Two Belgian explorers, M. Gapele
and M. Lepage have brought back
word of their strange experience to
civilization and their tale fired Capt.
Stevens' imagination.

Sure Monster Survives.
"From all I can gather from big
game hunters and explorers who have
been in Africa, I am sure that the
monster is still alive," said Capt.
Stevens in discussing his trip. "Anyway,
it will be a great trip, even if I don't
see it, eh, Laddie, me lad?"

Walter Winans, famous British big-
game hunter and explorer who has
trained animals in all parts of the
world, believes in the existence of the
reptile.

Ice Carnival on Tidal Basin Planned for Tomorrow Night

Get your skates out and sharpen
them up for tomorrow night, when
an ice carnival is slated to be held
on the Tidal Basin. If you can't
skate—why try, anyway, and make
the affair more carnivalistic. Thou-
sands will hear you company.

It is expected ice in the Basin
will be eight inches thick tomor-
row, if the cold snap holds; and
weather bureau officials say that
they can't see any prospect of a
rising thermometer as yet. This
gratifying situation has caused
plans for a real, northern ice car-
nival for Monday night.

Col. C. S. Ridley, superintendent
of Public Buildings and Grounds,
and S. Gordon Leach, manager of
the Tidal Basin bathing beach, are
co-operating to make the basin ab-
solutely safe for skaters. Red
lights and guards are stationed at

Old H. C. L. Makes Zoo Lions Roar for Those Vanished Steaks

When old H. C. of L. hit the Zo-
ological Park, Superintendent Ned
Hollister followed the example set
by the majority of Washington house-
keepers and turned to substitutes.
He is still substituting.

It has been so long since old King
Lion tasted beef that he is begin-
ning to believe he ate the last cow
in the world three years ago, leav-
ing only horses to feed the royalty
of animal land. Not that his majes-
ty objects to horse meat. In these
days of high prices he is only too
thankful to get that. But the mem-
ory of a nice, juicy beefsteak sets
him dreaming and makes him re-
sistless for the good old days.

Superintendent Hollister first began
feeding horse meat to animals in his
charge three years ago, when the
price of beef began to look like
the figures in a deed to a house and
lot. Since then, neither the lions nor
the other big cats, not to mention the
wolves, foxes, and a few of the big
birds, such as the eagles and condors,
have had so much as a taste of cow
meat.

Monthly Meat Bill \$900.
The horse meat is secured from a
butcher in Twining City at 7 1/2 cents
a pound. As the animals need from
10,000 to 15,000 pounds of meat a month,
the monthly bill for the Zoo is
about \$900. Superintendent Hollister
feels this isn't so bad, though, for
had he continued to use beef, it would
have been at least twice that amount.

FIGHTS TO HOLD JOBS FOR YANKS

American Legion Opposes
Discharge of Service Men
In Temporary Places.

THOUSANDS AFFECTED

Congress Will Be Asked to
Pass Law Granting Full-
est Protection.

More than 17,000 honorably dis-
charged soldiers, sailors and Ma-
rines have been certified for ap-
pointment to clerical and other po-
sitions in Washington and the coun-
try at large, according to a state-
ment made yesterday by Commis-
sioner Martin A. Morrison and
George R. Wales, of the Civil Service
Commission, who vigorously de-
clared that ex-service men who are
threatened with loss of their jobs
in Washington in the War Risk and
other bureaus that are reducing
their forces, have failed to receive
preference in appointments to gov-
ernment positions.

Inasmuch as all former service
men in the government employ in
Washington who have not been
certified, whether they have taken
the civil service examinations or
not, are facing loss of their po-
sitions under the government in the
general retrenchment program, the
American Legion has taken upon it-
self as a sacred duty to see that
these men receive the treatment to
which they are entitled.

Demand Enforcement.
The legislative committee of the
American Legion, of which John
Thomas Taylor is counsel, will de-
mand the rigid enforcement of sec-
tion 169, of the Act of Congress of
1876, which provides that in making
any reduction of force in any of the
executive departments, the head
of such departments shall retain
those persons who have been hon-
orably discharged from the military
or naval service of the United
States.

Effort will be made through the
proper channel to secure an interpre-
tation of this provision by the at-
torney general, and in the event it
should be construed as meaning only
former service men, who hold permanent
service appointments, and not tem-
porary appointees, additional legisla-
tion will be sought at the hands of
Congress to protect the ex-service
men holding temporary appointments,
but who have not been certified or
reached in the order of their standing
on the eligible lists.

The Civil Service Commission holds
that these men must be reached in
the order of their standing on the
preference lists before certification on
the ground that they have got to com-
pete with each other.

While this may be the law as it
stands, its enforcement will not ben-
efit ex-service men who are on the
eligible list with higher ratings than
those obtained by temporary appoint-
ees in the government employ. With
practically all the departments cut-
ting down their forces there will be
few, if any, appointments for many
months to come. With no vacan-
cies, there can be no appointments.
Hence as a practical thing there can
be no competition for something that
does not exist.

This being so, legion officials point
out, the competition argument falls
to the ground, and the only ques-
tion they are asking bureau chiefs
is, "Are you going to retain ex-ser-
vice men when you make cuts in your
forces, or not?"

In the event that all doubts as to
the construction of the preference
laws are interpreted in favor of
the men for whom they were
passed, the legion is prepared to
carry the fight to Congress, where
the first move will probably be the
introduction of a joint resolution
directing department heads not to
discharge any former service man
except for inefficiency.

18,000 Pass Tests.
Figures made public yesterday by
the Civil Service Commission show
that there are now 18,000 former
service men on the eligible list at
the commission's office here who
have not been certified. In the
Civil Service districts outside of
Washington there are approxi-
mately 400 men on the preference
list, but the latter have requested
to be appointed to positions in the
various States and not in the ex-
ecutive departments in the National
Capital.

More than 30,000 ex-service men have
taken Civil Service examinations in
the country at large since July, 1918.
Commissioners Morrison and Wales
state, and their preference claims
have been allowed. Of this number
about 18,000 successfully passed the
tests, and approximately 17,000 have
been certified for appointment to
classified and unclassified positions.

In the War Risk Bureau in Wash-
ington there are 546 ex-service men.
Of this number there are 188 holding
temporary appointments, some of
whom have passed the Civil Service
tests and some who have not. They
have not yet been certified, and hence
are affected by the ruling of the com-
mission that temporary appointees
must go first when reductions are
made.

Why Pyramid?

Ask Any Druggist How Repeated
Sales Have Made Pyramid the
Recognized Treatment.

SEND FOR FREE TRIAL.
MAILED free in plain wrapper. It
gives you relief. Get a 60-cent box
now.

Won't Eat Excelsior.
The second largest item on the
monthly bills for the Zoo is that for
hay and grain, and for neither of
these has Superintendent Hollister
been able to find a substitute. Be-
tween ten and fifteen tons of hay are
needed at the park each month, and
during the past three years the price
for even the cheapest hay has more
than doubled.

To meet the increased cost of sup-
plies with an appropriation that has
been increased but once in the past
six years, Superintendent Hollister
has been obliged to cut down expen-
ditures for the up-keep of the grounds
to meet the necessary bills for food
for the expensive animals in his
charge.

The appropriation as it now stands
is just barely sufficient to meet ab-
solutely necessary expenditures, and
leaves nothing over for the purchase
of new animals, or for the proper care
of the Zoo grounds.

When the Zoo was given an op-
portunity last year to secure two
young elephants just received at an
Eastern port from Sumatra, there
were no funds available to make the
purchase, though the opportunity was
unusual.

It was through the generosity of
Mrs. Charles D. Walcott, wife of
the secretary of the Smithsonian In-
stitution, and a few of her friends,
that the money for the animals was
finally raised and "Hetam" and
"Ketchi" were presented to the chil-
dren of Washington.

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JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

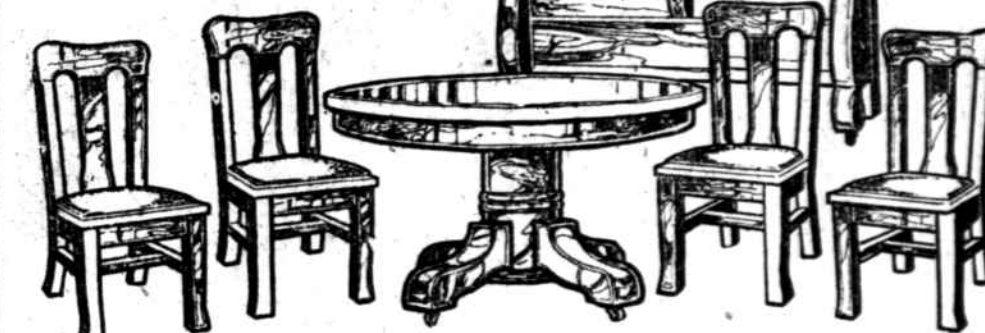
THERE is no reason why you should pay a fancy price for furniture when you can come to the NATIONAL and buy just what you want at a saving of Twenty-five Per Cent and more and pay the bill on the Easiest of Terms.

6-Piece Solid Dining Room Suite Golden Oak

—See this wonderful value. Suite consists of a large mirror back golden oak Buffet, six-foot Extension Table and four durable Chairs.

—January Clearance Sale Price.....

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SPECIAL!!!
10-Quart Genuine
Nesco Kettle
January Sale Price,
98c

—With handle and top.
—This ware is nationally famous and will give lasting service.

This Three-Piece Outfit 2-inch Post, White Enamel

—A sturdy constructed 2-inch continuous post white enamel Bed, woven wire spring and a well-made, comfortable mattress.

—January Clearance Sale Price

\$24.75

40% to 60%
Reductions in This Great
Sale of Odd
Chiffoniers

—Various woods and styles. You will find just the kind you want.

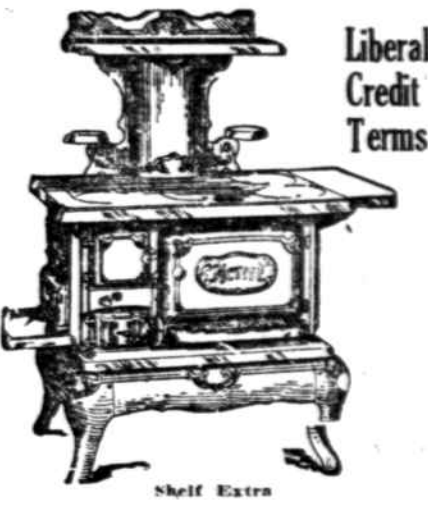
Prices Start at
\$15.75
In This January Clearance Sale.



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COAL RANGE

At a Special January Clearance Price,

\$28.75
—Made of the best grade cast iron
—a guaranteed cooker and baker.
—Shelf extra.



5-Piece Golden Oak Suite

—A special value that will appeal to you. This suite consists of a large, well-built, highly polished golden oak Dresser and Chiffonier to match. Both have the new square mirror. Porcelain white metal Bed and well-built Chair and Rocker.

—January Clearance Sale Price.....



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7 Pathe-
phone with
six Double-
Disc Rec-
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January Sale
price,

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